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State Wildlife Officials Present Sargent Conservation Award to
Kathleen "Betty" Anderson of Middleborough

PLYMOUTH – The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) today presented the Governor Francis W. Sargent Conservation Award to Middleborough's Kathleen "Betty" Anderson in recognition of her contributions to conserving the Commonwealth's natural heritage. Anderson was honored at a ceremony at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences – an organization she founded and directed from 1969 to 1983.

"It would be difficult to overstate Betty Anderson's qualifications for the Sargent Conservation Award. She has devoted her life to the study and conservation of birds and other wildlife of Massachusetts," said Fish and Game Commissioner Mary Griffin, who also noted Anderson's contributions as a charter member and chair of the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Advisory Committee.

Anderson became the sixth person to receive the Sargent Award following a review of nominations by the Fisheries and Wildlife Board. The board established the Sargent Award in 2000 in honor of the former governor who directed the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in 1963 and '64 and was a noted conservationist. The hand-carved wooden loon decoy was presented to Anderson by Griffin and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Undersecretary for Environment Philip Griffiths.

"Kathleen Anderson has been a strong environmental advocate for bird conservation in the Commonwealth," said George Darey, chairman of the Fisheries & Wildlife Board.
"We are very lucky to have someone like her serving the state."

Anderson is a native of Montana, who moved to Massachusetts as a young child. Largely self taught, she worked as an ornithologist at the Encephalitis Field Station with the US Public Health Service in the 1950s, and later for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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An avid birder and naturalist, Anderson has organized and participated in breeding bird surveys by the South Shore Bird Club in state wildlife management areas, and has contributed to statewide breeding bird, butterfly, and reptile/amphibian surveys, as well as MassWildlife's eagle count and other flora and fauna surveys.

Anderson received the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Arthur A. Allen Award in 1995 and was elected to the American Ornithologists' Union in 2005. She serves as president of the board of trustees of the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts, as well as the Nuttall Ornithological Club – widely regarded as the oldest ornithological club in the US.

Having documented changes in natural history sightings and events on her own farm over 30 years, Anderson's detailed nature journals have recently attracted the attention of climate change scientists.

Also attending today's award ceremony were members of the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board. Legislative aides from the offices of Sen. Marc Pacheco and Rep. Thomas Calter presented Anderson with citations from the Massachusetts Senate and House.

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